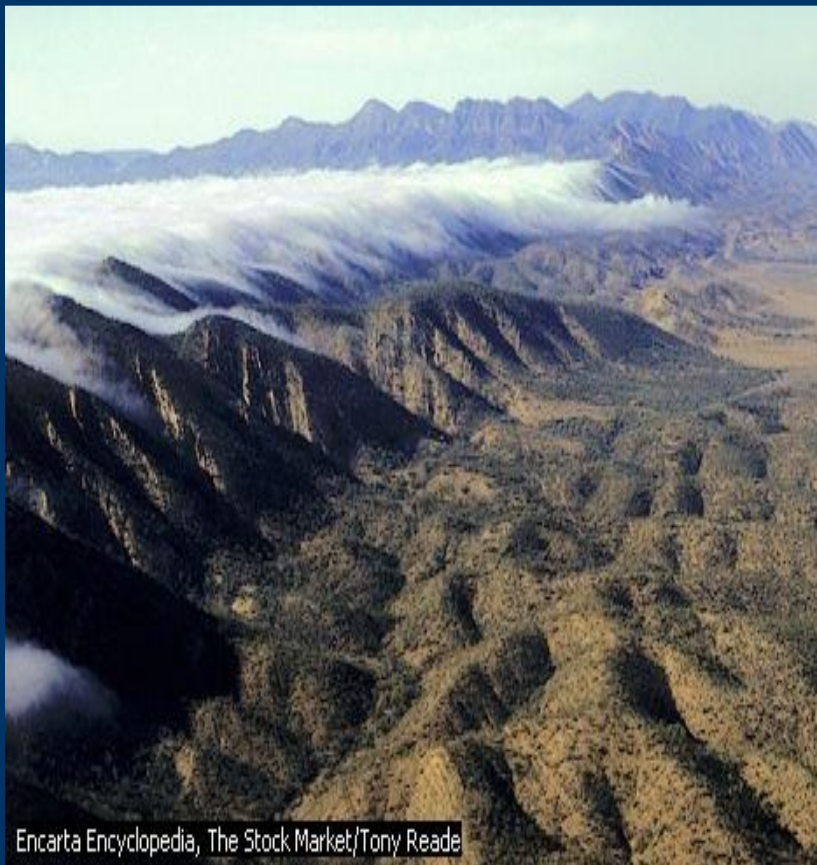




Glossary



- **Mammals** –млекопитающие
- **Insects** - насекомые
- **Reptiles** -пресмыкающиеся
- **Amphibians** – земноводные
- **Marsupials** – сумчатые
- **Monotremes** -
одноапертурные
- **Placentals** - плацентарные
- **Diversity** - разнообразие
- **To lay eggs** - откладывать
яйца
- **Abdominal pouch** -
сумка. мешочек на животе
- **Immature** - незрелый

Glossary



- **Hind legs** – задние ноги
- **Munch** - жевать
- **Suckle** - выкармливать
- **Tame** - ручной
- **Endemic** – свойственный данной местности
- **Herbivorous** – травоядный
- **Tiny** – крошечный
- **Species** – виды
- **Soft shelled (eggs)** – в мягкой оболочке
- **Descend** – происходить от...

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A LAND OF STRANGE ANIMALS

Australia is famous for its many unusual animals. If you visit, you might see a kangaroo hop past. Kangaroos use their powerful hind legs to hop at speeds up to 30 miles per hour (48 kilometers per hour)! If you look up in a eucalyptus tree, you might see a koala happily munching on leaves. Koalas resemble small bears, but they are not related to bears.

Even the names of the animals in Australia are strange. Can you imagine seeing a wallaby, wombat, quokka, bandicoot, dingo, or Tasmanian devil? The most unusual animal might be the platypus. It has a body like an otter and a bill like a duck.

Australia has nearly half a million species of plants and animals – one of the greatest varieties of any country in the world.



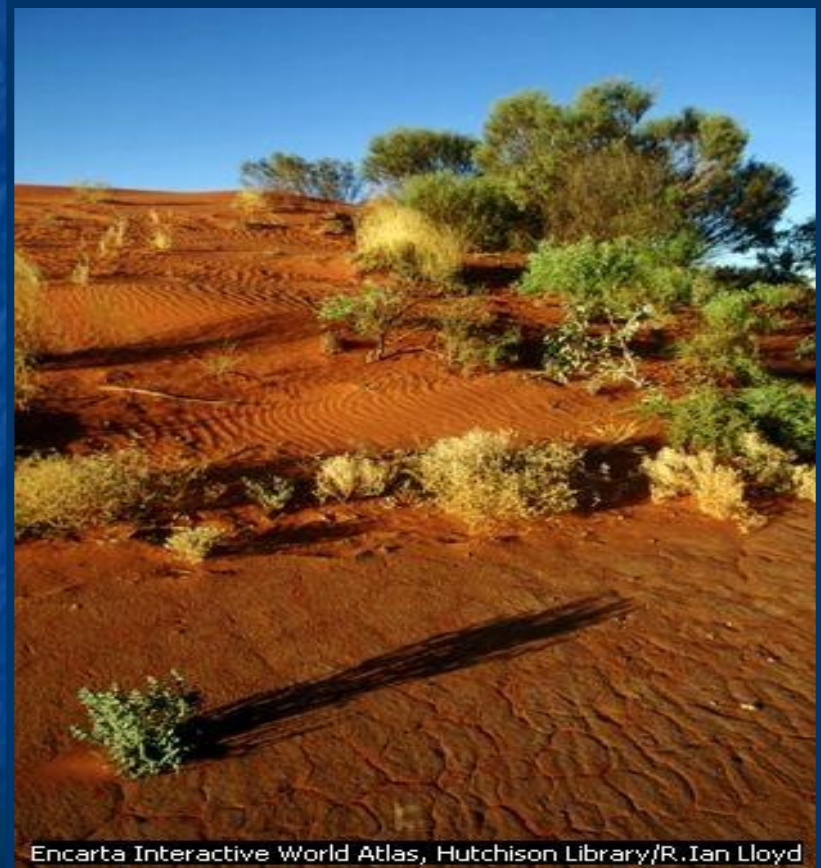
A large proportion of Australia's native animal species exist nowhere else in the world. Of Australia's animal species, it is estimated that 84 percent of mammals, 89 percent of reptiles, 93 percent of frogs, and 45 percent of birds are endemic.

Uluru is one of the biggest rocks in the world. It measures about 2.2 miles (3.6 kilometers) long!



Mammals all produce milk to suckle their young. Mammals have fur or hair. There are three types of mammals and examples of each type are found in Australia.

- **Monotremes** are mammals that lay soft shelled eggs.
- **Marsupials** are mammals that give birth to young which are in immature state. Females often carry them in pouches.
- **Placentals** are the mammals whose young are born in a more developed state, and produce a placenta.



Encarta Interactive World Atlas, Hutchison Library/R.Ian Lloyd



Monotreme, common name applied to a group of egg-laying mammals, including the platypus, or duckbill, and the echidnas, or spiny anteaters.



Platypus



Short-Beaked Echidna





Bandicoot



Numbat



Wombat

The term marsupial refers to a group of mammals that are distinguished by their ability to carry their young in an abdominal pouch for a period of time following birth. Including such animals as the kangaroo, opossum, koala, bandicoot, and Tasmanian devil, the greater majority of marsupials are restricted in their distribution to Australia.

**The koala is one of Australia's native marsupials.
These mammals carry their babies in pouches.**



Eucalyptus Forest



Koalas live only in eucalyptus forests

Marsupials are mammals that carry their young around in a pouch outside their body.



The phalanger



Tasmanian Devil



Wallaby in Pouch



Mulgara-marsupial mouse

The best-known marsupials of Australia are the kangaroos, which include about 50 species. Kangaroos are herbivores. They dwell in many areas of the country, and some have become so accustomed to humans they can be considered tame. The large red or grey kangaroo may stand as high as 2 m (7 ft) and can leap up to 9 m (30 ft). The wallaby and kangaroo rat are smaller members of the kangaroo family.



Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo



Red kangaroo and Joey

The kangaroo, a native Australian mammal, has powerful hind legs that allow the animal to jump as far as 5 m (16 ft) in a single leap. Its tail, which may be as long as 1.5 m (4 ft), is used for balance while jumping.



A baby kangaroo is called a joey. It lives in its mother's pouch until it's old enough to move around on its own.

Placentals

The dingo, which inhabits only Australia, probably descends from Asian domesticated dogs brought to Australia by prehistoric peoples.

Regarded by many as an emblem of Australia, the dingo is in fact a comparative newcomer, having arrived between 3,000 and 8,000 years ago in the company of Aboriginal people.



Dingo



Fairfax Island, the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world. It extends for about 2010 km (about 1250 mi) along the northeastern coast of Australia and is actually a chain of more than 2500 reefs and several small islands.

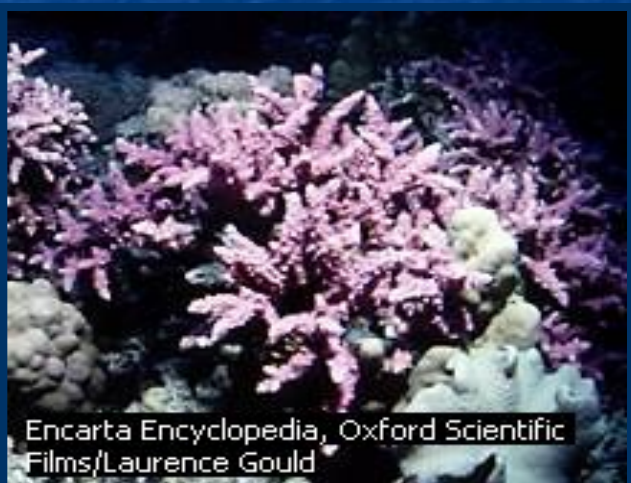


Parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef began to form as many as 2 million years ago. Most of the reef, however, has built up during the past 8,000 years. The largest of its kind and one of the world's most impressive natural wonders, the reef stretches south from Cape York Peninsula about 2,010 km (about 1,250 mi). Conditions for coral growth are ideal, and the water is usually crystal clear. Most of the reef is protected in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the largest marine park in the world.

Coral reefs are made up of the skeletons of tiny marine animals called polyps, or corals.



Starfish on Coral





The waters surrounding Australia support a wide variety of fish and aquatic mammals. Australia has about 3,000 species of marine and freshwater fish.



Blue Whale



Dolphin



SEA IMAGES/Carl Roessler

Great White Shark

Tropical fish





The octopus is a soft-bodied animal that lives in the sea.

Octopuses have eight arms, or tentacles.



Octopus Eye

Butterflies





Australia is the home of 649 known species of birds, ranging from archaic types, such as the giant, flightless emu and cassowary, to highly developed species.



Laughing Kookaburra of Australia

This well-known bird of woodlands and farmlands in Australia emits fiendish screams, which sound like laughter, at dawn and sunset.



Emu

The emu is a large flightless bird native to Australia. Emus roam the western half of the continent in mass movements that may involve as many as 70,000 birds



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Parrots



**Cockatiels, a type
of parrot native to
Australia**



**17 species of birds found in
Australia**



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Coastal Dunes on the Great Australian Bight



Pictured here are (*top, left to right*) the chameleon, glass snake, monitor, (*bottom*) iguana, Gila monster, and gecko.



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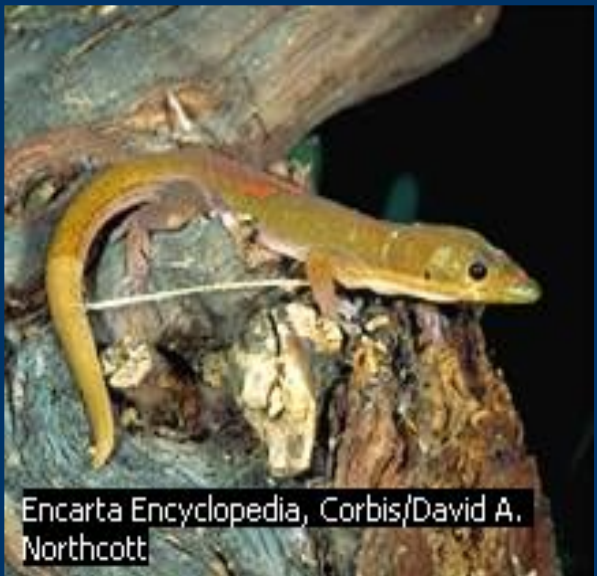
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Australia's indigenous amphibians are modest in number due to the prevailing dry climate. However, some have developed ways to survive the harsh climate of the Australian outback.



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